

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – OCTOBER 18, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Just two weeks ago Pope Francis issued the Encyclical Letter – *Fratelli Tutti*. This is a remarkable but lengthy document. Last week in the bulletin we published the introductory paragraphs.

The Encyclical has eight chapters and each week it is my intention to excerpt chapter after chapter and place in our bulletin. From his unique perspective the Holy Father is reflecting on our world today with hope for tomorrow.

I strongly encourage you to read the excerpts from the first chapter. They cover the following items: Losing a sense of human history, politics in battle rather than in service, the world without a shared road map, the value of immigrants, the illusions of digital communication, and the alienation of people from one another.

He ends this chapter inviting everyone to renewed hope. We must not confine ourselves within space and boundaries but rather think vertically, remembering the past, acknowledging today, and envisioning the future. “Time is greater than space”.

Reaching Out to Alumni

For the last three years we have sent mailings twice a year to over 800 names of friends and alumni of St. Joseph School who live outside the confines of our parish. This netted us friends and gifts. The list of those 160 who replied is in this bulletin.

We are searching for additional active friends of St. Joseph School. Our school is not compressed by COVID 19 but continues to grow. I encourage you to look at the four pages of what we send to those who have shown an interest over the last three years. I invite you to add to this list if you think the persons would/could support and be active toward the growth of St. Joseph School.

The Importance of the Eucharist

The very first Exhortation of Pope Francis seven years ago set his theme for his Pontificate. He wished to break down boundaries of space and promote our thinking of God’s mercy and joy.

Pope Benedict VIX in his leadership wrote several books on Jesus Christ. Pope Benedict brought us a deep sense of history of our origins. Pope Francis builds on this by reflecting on today with his message of God’s mercy and then brings a vision for the future that contains the *Joy of the Gospel*. Perhaps one of his most important elements of that Exhortation was #47.

The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak. These convictions have pastoral consequences that we are called to consider with prudence and boldness. Frequently, we act as arbiters of grace rather than its facilitators. But the Church is not a tollhouse; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems.

Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis, #47, November 2013